

**Amendments to the Claims:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

**Listing of Claims:**

1. (Currently Amended) container for storing food in an air-tight atmosphere, said container comprising:

a housing having a plurality of sidewalls integral with each other and forming a generally rectangular shape, one said plurality of sidewalls having an opening formed therein and for providing access to an interior of said housing[:]; said housing further comprising:

a plurality of interior walls spaced from said plurality of sidewalls for defining a gap therebetween, said gap partially extending about a perimeter of said housing;

said air pump being disposed within said gap and adjacent a bottom surface of said housing;

a door having a longitudinal axis and a pair of opposed edge portions equally spaced therefrom and extending substantially parallel thereto, said door further having an end portion integral with said opposed edge portions, said door being pivotally connected to said housing at said end portion, said door including a rear surface formed from steel and being magnetically engageable with said housing;

an electrically powered vacuum system connected to said housing and for selectively removing air therefrom as desired by a user, said vacuum system comprising

an air pump and a control button connected thereto and for selectively toggling same between operable and non-operable modes, and

a plurality of valves connected to said air pump and for directing air inwardly and outwardly from said housing.

2. (Canceled)

3. (Original)The container of claim 1, wherein said plurality of valves comprise:  
an intake valve having an upper end portion connected to one said plurality of interior walls; and

an outlet valve having a lower end portion connected to one said plurality of sidewalls.

4. (Original)The container of claim 1, further comprising:  
at least one shelf selectively positionable within said housing and for supporting food thereon.

5. (Original)The container of claim 1, further comprising a handle connected to said door and extending outwardly therefrom, said control button being connected to said handle.

6. (Original)The container of claim 1, further comprising a plurality of support members formed from rubber and being connected to one said plurality of sidewalls for maintaining said container at a substantially stable position during operating conditions.

7. (Original)A container for storing food in an air-tight atmosphere, said container comprising:

a housing having a plurality of sidewalls integral with each other and forming a generally rectangular shape, one said plurality of sidewalls having an opening formed therein and for providing access to an interior of said housing;

a door having a longitudinal axis and a pair of opposed edge portions equally spaced therefrom and extending substantially parallel thereto, said door further having an end portion integral with said opposed edge portions, said door being pivotally connected to said housing at said end portion, said door including a rear surface formed from steel and being magnetically engageable with said housing;

an electrically powered vacuum system connected to said housing and for selectively removing air therefrom as desired by a user, said vacuum system comprising

an air pump and a control button connected thereto and for selectively toggling same between operable and non-operable modes, and

a plurality of valves connected to said air pump and for directing air inwardly and outwardly from said housing;

said housing further including a plurality of interior walls spaced from said plurality of sidewalls for defining a gap therebetween, said gap partially extending about a perimeter of said housing with said air pump being disposed within said gap and adjacent a bottom surface of said housing.

8. (Original)The container of claim 7, wherein said plurality of valves comprise:  
an intake valve having an upper end portion connected to one said plurality of interior walls; and

an outlet valve having a lower end portion connected to one said plurality of sidewalls.

9. (Original)The container of claim 7, further comprising:  
at least one shelf selectively positionable within said housing and for supporting food thereon.

10. (Original)The container of claim 7, further comprising a handle connected to said door and extending outwardly therefrom, said control button being connected to said handle.

11. (Original)The container of claim 7, further comprising a plurality of support members formed from rubber and being connected to one said plurality of sidewalls for maintaining said container at a substantially stable position during operating conditions.

12. (Original)A container for storing food in an air-tight atmosphere, said container comprising:

a housing having a plurality of sidewalls integral with each other and forming a generally rectangular shape, one said plurality of sidewalls having an opening formed therein and for providing access to an interior of said housing;

a door having a longitudinal axis and a pair of opposed edge portions equally spaced therefrom and extending substantially parallel thereto, said door further having an end portion integral with said opposed edge portions, said door being pivotally connected to said housing at said end portion, said door including a rear surface formed from steel and being magnetically engageable with said housing;

an electrically powered vacuum system connected to said housing and for selectively removing air therefrom as desired by a user, said vacuum system comprising

an air pump and a control button connected thereto and for selectively toggling same between operable and non-operable modes,

a plurality of valves connected to said air pump and for directing air inwardly and outwardly from said housing; and

a plurality of support members formed from rubber and being connected to one said plurality of sidewalls for maintaining said container at a substantially stable position during operating conditions;

said housing further including a plurality of interior walls spaced from said plurality of sidewalls for defining a gap therebetween, said gap partially extending about a perimeter of said housing with said air pump being disposed within said gap and adjacent a bottom surface of said housing.

13. (Original)The container of claim 12, wherein said plurality of valves comprise:  
an intake valve having an upper end portion connected to one said plurality of interior walls; and

an outlet valve having a lower end portion connected to one said plurality of sidewalls.

14. (Original)The container of claim 12, further comprising:  
at least one shelf selectively positionable within said housing and for supporting food thereon.

15. (Original)The container of claim 12, further comprising a handle connected to said door and extending outwardly therefrom, said control button being connected to said handle.